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## Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University

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# I. Introduction and overview

1. In 1969, Secretary-General U Thant proposed "the establishment of a United Nations university, truly international and devoted to the Charter objectives of peace and progress". The General Assembly subsequently authorized an expert study on the feasibility of the proposal and, after considering the question further at its next two annual sessions, approved the establishment of the United Nations University (UNU) in December 1972 and formally adopted the Charter of the University in December 1973. (In December 2009, the Assembly amended that Charter to grant UNU permission to award postgraduate degrees.)

2. UNU was able to launch its academic work in September 1975 as a result of the generosity of the Government of Japan, which provided headquarters facilities in Tokyo for the University and contributed $100 million to establish an endowment fund. UNU has since grown to become a global research and teaching organization with 14 active institutes and programmes in 12 countries worldwide, supported by administrative and academic services units in Tokyo, Bonn, Germany, Kuala Lumpur, New York and Paris.

3. The mission of UNU is to contribute — through collaborative research and education, dissemination and advisory services — to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its peoples and Member States. The University functions as a think tank for the United Nations system and for Member States; serves as a bridge between the United Nations and the international academic community; provides a platform for global and local dialogue; and contributes to the building of research and teaching capacity, particularly in developing countries.

4. Its dual identity as both a United Nations organization and a high-level research and teaching institution enables UNU to contribute directly to the advancement of knowledge relevant to the role and work of the United Nations, as well as to the application of that knowledge in the formulation of sound principles, policies, strategies and programmes for action. With the intellectual independence guaranteed by its Charter, UNU is able to make these contributions objectively and with integrity and to offer unbiased, fresh perspectives on the key global challenges of today and tomorrow.

5. This special mission and unique identity give UNU a number of distinctive characteristics that distinguish it from traditional universities and research institutions, including:

(a) A global structure, with a presence in more than a dozen countries worldwide;

(b) Close collaboration with numerous United Nations and national/international organizations, and collaborative partnerships with universities in both developed and developing countries;

(c) A user-oriented focus on problems and themes, rather than on academic disciplines;

(d) A commitment to the concept of sustainability and to bridging the gaps between the haves and the have-nots.

6. Collaborative networking is a critical foundation for much of the work of UNU. The University maintains close cooperative relationships with other organizations of the United Nations system (agencies, programmes, commissions, funds and convention secretariats) as well as with leading universities and research institutes in Member States. In 2012, UNU worked with more than 50 United Nations system partners.

7. At the highest level, UNU contributes to the work of the United Nations by providing (through the Rector) input into meetings of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), at which it, in turn, is alerted about pressing United Nations policy issues to which the University can contribute. UNU also monitors and participates in relevant discussions and communications of the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management that support the work of CEB.

8. As of year-end 2012, the global UNU system had a complement of 679 personnel, of whom 254 (37 per cent) were nationals of developing countries. University staff included nationals of at least 87 countries. In terms of gender, the global UNU staff comprised 392 men and 287 women.

9. UNU receives no funds from the regular United Nations budget; it is financed entirely by investment income derived from its endowment fund and by voluntary contributions from Governments (mainly the host Governments of the University's institutes) and from agencies, international organizations, foundations and other sources.

10. The overall budget of UNU for the biennium 2012-2013 is $142.8 million, of which some 61 per cent is financed by core income (including operating contributions and endowment fund income) and 39 per cent by contributions to specific programmes.

11. In 2012, UNU received $51.7 million in contributions from 21 Governments and 168 other sources. The work of the University also benefited from counterpart and other types of support, such as cost-sharing, as well as from extrabudgetary contributions paid directly to cooperating institutions for academic activities.

## II. Activities and achievements in 2012

12. The overarching goal of UNU is to contribute to global sustainable development. In pursuit of that goal, the University employs a systems-oriented, interdisciplinary, problem-solving approach that integrates the quantitative rigour of the natural and physical sciences with the qualitative insights of the social sciences and humanities. The aim is to generate new knowledge, enhance individual and institutional capacities and disseminate useful information to relevant audiences.

13. Given its limited human and financial resources, UNU focuses its work on areas in which it can make a real contribution and bring "additionality" to the effort. As prescribed in the University's strategic plan for the period 2011-2014, the programmatic space of UNU academic activities encompasses five interlinked, interdependent thematic clusters under the overarching theme of sustainability: (a) peace, security and human rights; (b) development governance; (c) population and health; (d) global change and sustainable development; and (e) science, technology and society.

14. Within the scope of this programmatic space, UNU undertakes three complementary types of core activities:

(a) Research and study:

(i) Cross-cultural, interdisciplinary research utilizing science-based techniques and methodologies to study important global processes and offer forward-looking solutions;

(ii) Targeted foresight and policy studies aimed at developing policy-relevant prescriptions and evaluating the feasibility and comparative advantages of each option;

(b) Teaching and capacity development:

(i) Postgraduate-level education (degree-oriented programmes and specialized training opportunities) focused on understanding problems and devising solutions;

(ii) Capacity development activities aimed at helping developing and transitional countries to enhance the potential of individuals and institutions to address current problems and confront emerging challenges;

(c) Sharing and transfer of knowledge:

(i) Print publications and audiovisual/web presentations that disseminate information about UNU research as well as current scientific advances and best practices;

(ii) Public events, such as conferences, seminars, symposiums and lectures, that provide face-to-face networking opportunities.

15. The following five thematic sections present a selection of projects and accomplishments within each of these core activities that serve to highlight the breadth of the work of UNU in 2012.

## A. Thematic cluster 1: Peace, security and human rights

16. Human security (with the aim of achieving freedom from fear and freedom from want) is displacing territorial security (national stability and an absence of inter-State warfare) as a central concern among the members of the international community. This shift also spotlights human rights violations and intercultural misunderstanding, which can sow the seeds of conflict.

### Research and study

17. Drug trafficking poses a major threat to weak and vulnerable States, and to international security. The UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP) project entitled "Between the Lines: Drug Trafficking and Transit States" focuses on transit (rather than producing or consuming) States, exploring the consequences of drug trafficking for countries that are caught in the middle of the drug trade.

18. "Changing Multilateralism: The European Union as a Global-Regional Actor in Security and Peace" was a European Union-funded research project aimed at articulating the present and future role of the Union as an actor in security and peace. The research, conducted by a consortium of nine partners, was coordinated

by the UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS). A two-day "foresight workshop" and dissemination event, held in Brussels in January, marked the end of the three-year project.

19. The project entitled "Climate Change, Hydro-Conflicts and Human Security", of which the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) is a partner, investigated whether hydroclimatic hazards (such as droughts and floods) exacerbate social tensions and intra-/inter-State conflicts in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Sahel, or whether they provide a catalyst for cooperation and peace. The three-year project, completed in December, sought to map international and national policies for security and adaptation in the areas of water resources and hazard management, and to develop a regional policy model for security against hydroclimatic hazards.

20. The UNU-ISP project entitled "Defying and Escaping Victimhood: Women and Children in Peacebuilding", financed in part by the Asian Women's Fund, critically assessed the insufficient attention paid to the roles that women and children can play in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. A first book, *Defying Victimhood: Women and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, was published by UNU Press in 2012.

21. The UNU-ISP project entitled "The Existence and Use of 'Evil' in International Politics" looks at how the term "evil" has made its way into United Nations discourse. The project explores the role of the term in contemporary international politics, including how it is understood and used, and the consequences that flow from the way it is employed. A research workshop was held at the Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, in May.

22. The UNU-ISP research project entitled "International Rule of Law and Access to Justice", undertaken in partnership with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the University of Waterloo and the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law of Griffith University, held the last of three workshops in Australia in October.

23. The UNU-ISP research project entitled "Responsibility to Protect and Protection of Civilians", undertaken in partnership with the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law of Griffith University and the Australian Civil-Military Centre and funded in part by the Australian Responsibility to Protect Fund, examines the relationship between two norms of protection and their possible application synergies. A policy guide on "enhancing protection" was prepared for policymakers and officials of United Nations Member States. An edited book, *Norms of Protection: Responsibility to Protect, Protection of Civilians and Their Interaction*, was published by UNU Press in 2012.

**Teaching and capacity development**

24. In June, UNU-Barcelona organized a two-day European Union-Maghreb exchange between judges and journalists from countries on both shores of the Mediterranean, entitled "Organizing Information, Regulating Communication". Participants discussed differing ethical principles in relation to the social control function of public authorities, including the judiciary, and explored the possibilities of combining freedom of expression, counter-power and legal ethics in the context of the public interest.

25. The six-week UNU intensive core courses are part of the UNU-ISP Master of Science in Sustainability, Development and Peace degree programme. Courses

offered at the 2012 session, at UNU headquarters in September and October, were entitled (a) "The United Nations system and global change", (b) "International peace and security" and (c) "International cooperation and development".

**Sharing and transfer of knowledge**

26. The two-day Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, held in Nagasaki, Japan, in August, was co-organized by UNU-ISP, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the city of Nagasaki.

27. The project entitled "After Oppression: Transitional Justice in Latin America and Eastern Europe", carried out by UNU-ISP in collaboration with the College of Mexico and the University of Oxford, concluded with the publication by UNU Press of a book, *After Oppression: Transitional Justice in Latin America and Eastern Europe*, which documents how transitional justice has been achieved in seven Latin American and seven Eastern European countries.

28. The UNU-ISP project entitled "Legality and Legitimacy in Global Affairs" was completed in 2012 with the publication by Oxford University Press of an edited book, *Legality and Legitimacy in Global Affairs*, which illustrates how, in the absence of legal rules, the common perceptions of humanity and legitimacy can serve as substitutes, and analyses the legality and legitimacy of various regimes under international law.

29. José Ramos-Horta, former President of Timor-Leste and 1996 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, delivered the twentieth U Thant Distinguished Lecture, co-organized by the UNU Centre and the Science Council of Japan at UNU headquarters in November, on the topic "Global Governance and Peacebuilding: Perspectives from Timor-Leste".

## B. Thematic cluster 2: Development governance

30. While alleviating poverty, minimizing socioeconomic inequality and enhancing educational opportunities are crucial steps in improving social and economic development, good governance is the key. Leadership at all levels, in both the public and the private sectors, should be responsive, transparent and accountable and must strive to meet the needs of all, in particular the poor and marginalized.

**Research and study**

31. The Jean Monnet project entitled "Constitutional Rights and Free Trade Agreements", carried out by UNU-CRIS, sought to systematically assess how national courts and regional tribunals have been dealing with potential sources of conflict between the contents of such agreements and constitutional rights, especially where activist courts are operating. Workshops were held in Bruges, Belgium, in February and in Brussels in May. The project was completed in 2012, and a final report was submitted to the European Commission.

32. The two flagship initiatives of the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) Education for Sustainable Development programme, the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development and the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net), are both successful examples of the building of networks that tangibly translate

global discourse on education for sustainable development into local realities. Efforts of the Centres in 2012 included the creation of capacity development modules for African education-related institutions, a series of new research publications, active engagement in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in India, and the adoption of a declaration on education for sustainable development. Annual initiatives of the Network include the ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development and the ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School, which in 2012 was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

33. Since 2008, UNU-ISP has collaborated with a group of leading African universities, through a project seed-funded by the Government of Japan, to develop postgraduate programmes on sustainable development in Africa. Project partners include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and selected Japanese and Northern European universities. The project entitled "Education for Sustainable Development in Africa" has devised three Master's-level education programmes that will be implemented in 2013 through eight partner universities in Africa. A consortium comprising representatives of the participating universities, with UNU-ISP and the UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) co-serving as the secretariat, has been established to steer the project.

34. The UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) project entitled "Electronic Governance for Sustainable Development: Foundations" studied how Governments around the world are using their electronic governance programmes to advance sustainable development, with the aim of developing a model for integrating e-governance programmes with sustainable development initiatives and providing a useful policy framework. The project was completed in April, and the project outputs were delivered to the government of Macao, China.

35. The UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) project entitled "Foreign Aid and Democracy in Africa" is aimed at delineating which features of aid and which characteristics of recipient countries determine the magnitude and direction of aid effectiveness in terms of democratic transitions and consolidation. Seven country case studies were examined to trace causal processes, followed by a large-scale quantitative analysis to provide broader generalizations.

36. The project entitled "Free Movement of People within Regional Integration Processes" is being carried out by UNU-CRIS in cooperation with UNESCO, which is providing financing. The aim is to present a clear overview of current trends in regional organizations' approaches to the free movement of people.

37. The project entitled "Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks", funded by the European Union, is studying the present and future role of the Union in an emerging multipolar world. A consortium of 16 global partners, including UNU-CRIS (as the lead institution for 2 of the project's 10 work packages), is conducting five main categories of research. A two-day first annual conference was held in Milan, Italy, in February, and a two-day workshop was organized at UNU-CRIS in Bruges, Belgium, in March.

38. The aims of the UNU-IIST project entitled "Government Information Leadership: Foundations" were to build a general framework for the establishment of a government chief information officer function and to validate that framework in concrete government scenarios, focusing on the required human and institutional capabilities. The project was completed in December, with project outputs delivered to the government of Macao, China.

39. The UNU-WIDER Growth and Poverty Project addresses the challenge of reconciling Africa's development trends; it seeks to provide evidence for the ongoing debate surrounding African growth and poverty and on the effectiveness of foreign aid and domestic policies. A poverty toolkit was developed, documented and distributed to country research teams for review.

40. "Learning to Compete: Accelerating Industrial Development in Africa" is a comparative, country-based collaborative undertaking being carried out by UNU-WIDER, the African Development Bank and the Brookings Institution. The project seeks to answer two seemingly simple but puzzling questions: why is there so little industry in Africa, and what, if anything, can public policy do about it? UNU-WIDER is conducting research in 10 countries in Africa and 2 in Asia. Project results were used by the African Development Bank in Ministerial-level seminars at its 2012 annual meetings in the United Republic of Tanzania and at the meeting of the Committee of 10 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors during the 2012 annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

41. The UNU-IIST project entitled "Peer Production Approaches to e-Learning", financed in part by the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao, China, is aimed at developing an e-learning framework for the teaching of software engineering skills within a peer production environment that fosters collaborative learning and enables students to participate in real-world software projects.

42. "ReCom: Research and Communication on Foreign Aid" is a UNU-WIDER-coordinated research initiative being implemented in partnership with the Danish International Development Agency and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, with participation by the Danish Institute for International Studies. The project seeks to add to the existing evidence base and to communicate to policymakers and a broader audience about what aid has done, and what aid can do better in the future, within the scope of (a) growth and employment, (b) governance and fragility, (c) gender equality, (d) the environment and climate change, and (e) social sectors. The ReCom website was launched in June.

43. The Small and Medium Enterprise Survey project, conducted by UNU-WIDER and several partners, surveyed small- and medium-sized non-State enterprises operating in the manufacturing sector in 10 provinces of Viet Nam. The final version of the project report was issued (in a combined English and Vietnamese version) at a high-level workshop held in Hanoi in November.

44. The UNU-IAS Sustainable Development Governance initiative explores possibilities for strengthening institutional and organizational environmental structures at multiple geographical levels and their interplay. In April, the initiative launched two new projects, both supported by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan: a project exploring international institutional architectures to facilitate a low-carbon society in the major economies of Asia, and a project focusing on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda in terms of international boundaries.

45. The UNESCO-UNU Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement of People is based at UNU-CRIS in Bruges, Belgium. In cooperation with the University of Pretoria, the Chair addresses the opportunities and challenges of regional integration, the social dimension of regional integration and the free movement of people within South Africa and the southern African region.

**Teaching and capacity development**

46. In Luxembourg in July, UNU-CRIS jointly organized a one-week summer-school and research symposium, entitled "Analysing Regional Social Cohesion", with the Consortium for Comparative Research on Regional Integration and Social Cohesion.

47. To address the gap between research and policy, UNU-WIDER has partnered with the African Economic Research Consortium to strengthen the capacity of African scholars to conduct climate change research, as well as to incorporate climate change teaching into African universities. As part of the capacity-building component of this initiative, UNU-WIDER has partnered with ministries in a number of countries in southern Africa and is developing a regional energy-economic model in collaboration with the University of Cape Town.

48. "Development under Climate Change" is a broad UNU-WIDER project that combines research with capacity-building in order to identify sustainable solutions for developing countries in addressing global problems such as climate change and poverty. The first part of the project, completed in mid-2012, focused on primary scientific research. In the second part, launched in February, UNU-WIDER is collaborating with the African Economic Research Consortium to: (a) build capacity among African researchers to teach university-level courses on climate change; (b) help key ministries in five southern African countries to incorporate climate change considerations into national planning; and (c) award research grants to promising African scholars to enable them to work on climate change issues.

49. The UNU-IIST project entitled "ICT-Enabled Education for Poverty Reduction" focuses on the use of information and communications technology to support grass-roots capacity-building for poverty reduction, with the Lao People's Democratic Republic as the first country of activity. Under a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNU-IIST, in collaboration with the University of Bremen, designed and built software that supports capacity-building at the grass-roots level. A first version of the software was delivered to the Ministry in February and is now in use in eight southern provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

50. In July and August, UNU-CRIS organized a one-week doctoral school in Quito entitled "Latin American, European and comparative regionalism". The school was jointly arranged with Simón Bolívar Andean University, with support provided by the Inter-American Development Bank, the Observatory of European Union-Latin American Relations and the Latin American Trade Network.

51. The Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development degree programme is offered by the UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, in cooperation with Maastricht University, partner universities and international organizations.

52. The multidisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Governance degree programme offered by UNU-MERIT and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance provides advanced training in the knowledge and skills most relevant to policy analysis and the economics of technology and innovation. The programme has two specializations: (a) economics and policy studies of technical change and (b) public policy and policy analysis.

53. UNU-IIST offers a double-degree Doctor of Philosophy in Information and Communication Technology for Sustainable Development programme, in collaboration with the University of Pisa. The programme was launched in September.

54. Also in September, a new regional integration and multi-level governance specialization of the double-degree Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development programme was officially launched by UNU-MERIT and UNU-CRIS, in cooperation with Maastricht University.

**Sharing and transfer of knowledge**

55. In November, UNU-CRIS jointly organized a two-day international conference entitled "After the Arab Spring: Rethinking the Role of Regional Organizations in Supporting Democratic Governance" with the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

56. The annual Africa Day Symposium, held at UNU headquarters, is jointly organized by the UNU Centre and the African Diplomatic Corps. The theme of the 2012 Symposium, held in May, was "Hard infrastructure development in Africa: the role of Japan".

57. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) — an informal process of dialogue and cooperation among the 29 European States, the European Commission, 20 Asian countries and the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — is aimed at strengthening the relationship between the two regions. UNU-CRIS, as a partner of the process, co-edited and contributed a key chapter to the *ASEM Outlook Report 2012*, discussed at a workshop in December in Singapore.

58. The UNU-CRIS book *The Ashgate Research Companion to Regionalisms*, published by Ashgate in January, provides an overview of regionalism along with detailed analyses on the construction, activities and implications of both established and emerging examples of formal political and economic organizations as well as informal regional entities and networks.

59. The two-day conference entitled "Climate Change and Development Policy", held in Helsinki in September, is an example of how UNU-WIDER engages with decision makers from developed and developing countries in order to enhance the uptake of the Institute's research and policy impact in a geographically diversified manner, with the aim of influencing policy formulation.

60. A public launch event was held in London in June for the UNU-WIDER book *Economies in Transition: The Long-Run View*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

61. The UNU-CRIS book *The EU and Multilateral Security Governance*, published by Routledge in December, studies the role played by the European Union in peace and security as a regional actor with global aspirations, in the context of challenged and changing multilateralism.

62. Public launch events/seminars were held for the UNU-WIDER book *Fragile States: Causes, Costs, and Responses*, published by Oxford University Press, in March in Florence, Italy (co-organized with the Innocenti Research Centre of the United Nations Children's Fund) and in Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (co-organized with the annual conference of the Centre for the Study of African Economies).

63. The Inclusive Wealth Index is a new way of measuring a nation's wealth, one that takes into account human capital (education, skills, earning potential, life expectancy and population), natural capital (fossil fuels, minerals, trees and land) and produced capital (such as roads, railroad tracks, buildings, vehicles and washing machines). The inaugural *Inclusive Wealth Report* was issued by the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (hosted by the UNU Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE)) in June at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

64. The sixth International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance focused on the topic of open innovation. The four-day conference, held in Albany, United States of America, in October, was co-organized by UNU-IIST and the State University of New York at Albany.

65. The annual Conference on Micro Evidence on Innovation and Development brings together researchers from around the world to discuss the importance of innovation for economic growth and development. In 2012, a three-day event held in Cape Town, South Africa, was co-organized by UNU-MERIT, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other partners.

66. The World Reports on Regional Integration, produced by UNU-CRIS in collaboration with other United Nations partners, reflect the expertise of the various United Nations regional economic and social commissions. *The United Nations and the Regions: Third World Report on Regional Integration*, published by Springer in January, investigates the implications of the growing importance of supranational regional organizations for global governance in general and for the United Nations in particular.

67. The sixteenth UNU-WIDER Annual Lecture, held in Helsinki in September, was given by Lant Pritchett of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The topic of his lecture was "Folk and the formula: pathways to capable States".

## C. Thematic cluster 3: Population and health

68. Problems that affect human health — such as infectious diseases, contaminated or inaccessible water, inadequate food and marginal living conditions or livelihoods — can transcend national borders and may have profound regional or global impacts. The work of UNU in this thematic cluster focuses on the balance among economic, social and environmental factors that can ensure sustainable good health, stable communities and productive livelihoods.

### Research and study

69. Stroke (cerebrovascular disease) is the top cause of severe disability in people living at home. The project entitled "Functional Status and Quality of Life of

Community Dwelling Post-Stroke Survivors and the Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of a Home-Based Care Provider and Assisting Exercise Programme" is a study conducted by the UNU International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), in cooperation with the National University of Malaysia Medical Centre, that studies stroke survivors for one year and more after a stroke to ascertain physical and psychosocial complications and design a structured multidisciplinary home therapy programme.

70. The project entitled "Global Vulnerability to Disease", carried out by UNU-IIGH in collaboration with the UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the University of California, Los Angeles, and others, is aimed at developing an interactive global vulnerability tool for water-related diseases. An initial proof-of-concept study being conducted in Malaysia is looking into the influences of physical, human and disease factors on the prevalence and distribution of cases of dengue fever and chikungunya.

71. The joint research project entitled "Health Risk and Health Care Cost Assessment of Arsenicosis in Cambodia", a collaboration among UNU-IIGH, the Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Baptist University and the National University of Malaysia, involved the arsenic testing of water, food, hair and nail samples; a health survey and clinical assessment of the study population; and an assessment of the economic burden of arsenicosis. Research activities have been completed, and final data analysis is under way.

72. "Secure Architecture of Electronic Health Records" is a three-year project funded by the Science and Technology Development Fund of Macao, China. In the project, UNU-IIST is collaborating with the University of Macao in conducting research on fundamental techniques for the development of integrated health information systems.

73. A UNU-IIGH project entitled "The Utilization of Open Source Software in Health Care Systems in Developing Countries" seeks to develop and customize an open source health information system that will allow for the collaborative development of its core functionality in terms of patient health records. A first workshop was organized in October.

**Teaching and capacity development**

74. In October, UNU-IIGH conducted a two-day short course in Kuala Lumpur entitled "Open source hospital information systems development". The aim was to build human resource capacity in the field of open source technology in developing countries.

75. The UNU-IIGH postdoctoral fellowship programme enables young scholars to conduct postdoctoral-level research on issues of pressing global health importance.

76. The UNU-Kirin Group fellowship programme provides financial support annually for five researchers from countries in Asia to enable them to undergo a full year of training at the National Food Research Institute in Tsukuba, Japan. In April, five fellows successfully concluded their 12-month training; five more students began their 12-month training at the Institute in May.

**Sharing and transfer of knowledge**

77. The UNU-EHS report *Climate Change, Vulnerability and Human Mobility: Perspectives of Refugees from the East and Horn of Africa*, based on field research conducted in refugee camps (in cooperation with and funded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

78. There has been no analysis focusing on mental health and psychological/emotional well-being in United Nations resolutions or other key United Nations documents. The UNU-IIGH project entitled "Development of a Compendium of the United Nations Documents on Mental Health, Psychological and Emotional Well-Being", carried out in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters, is aimed at the joint publication of a compendium of relevant documents.

79. At the sixteenth UNU interactive seminar on global issues, held in Tokyo in November, UNU Senior Academic Programme Officer Obijiofor Aginam, co-editor of the UNU Press book *HIV/AIDS and the Security Sector in Africa*, discussed the dynamics of how the security sector in selected African States has responded to the complex and multifaceted challenges of HIV/AIDS.

## D. Thematic cluster 4: Global change and sustainable development

80. Global change encompasses not only environmental changes (such as biodiversity loss and climate change), but also economic, social and cultural changes. The work carried out by UNU in this thematic cluster focuses on the interactions between these changes and on the implications for sustainable human development.

**Research and study**

81. UNU-INRA, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, is undertaking an initiative entitled "Enhancing the Capacity of Private Financial Institutions in Africa for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Clean and Low-Carbon Technologies". Scoping studies conducted in five countries reviewed relevant financial products and services and assessed opportunities for and constraints on the development of innovative investment and financial instruments. Expert meetings were held in Cameroon (for Francophone countries) and Zambia (for Anglophone countries).

82. The project entitled "Enhancing Resilience to Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Semi-Arid Africa: An Integrated Approach", supported by the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development, involves UNU-ISP, UNU-INRA and leading adaptation and resilience research institutes in Ghana and Japan. The goals are to combine research on climate change and ecosystem change and to build an integrated resilience enhancement strategy. A kick-off meeting and a research field visit for the project took place in Ghana in May; in October, the joint coordinating committee was convened.

83. UNU-INWEH has initiated a global study on the economics of land degradation, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Stockholm Environment Institute and others. Outputs of the project entitled "Global Economics of Land Degradation" will include an integrated ecological-economic framework for addressing land

degradation and promoting sustainable land management, replicable methodologies for the analysis of land value, national case studies and a synthesis report targeting national and global policymakers.

84. *Hima* is a traditional, community-based environmental resources management system that has been practised for more than 1,500 years on the Arabian peninsula. The "Global Hima Initiative: The Role of Hima as a Natural Resources Management System in Peacebuilding" was formalized in May through a public launch at the annual West Asia-North Africa Forum. UNU-INWEH was an initial signatory of the Hima Consortium, and a UNU-INWEH researcher chairs the technical committee. A consultative and planning workshop was held in December, co-organized by UNU-INWEH and partners.

85. The UNU-ISP project entitled "Human Security and Natural Disasters" extends and applies the human security approach to natural disasters. In February, UNU-ISP and Waseda University, with support from the Japan Foundation, organized a two-day workshop in Tokyo for human security and disaster experts from Japan and overseas, as well as a symposium aimed at sharing key research findings with the public. A follow-up public symposium, focusing on the "triple disasters" that struck Japan in 2011 and the challenges that have arisen during the rebuilding phase, was held at UNU headquarters in November. Project findings were presented at two public seminars held in Australia in December.

86. The project entitled "Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains", an integrated transboundary initiative of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, addressed the interlinked problems of land degradation and poverty. The project was financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors; UNEP was the GEF implementing agency, and UNU-EHS was the international executing agency. The project was completed in August.

87. The UNU-IAS Traditional Knowledge Initiative promotes and strengthens research on traditional knowledge through joint research projects, particularly in the areas of climate change, natural resources and biological resources. A key achievement of the Initiative team was co-organizing, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a workshop entitled "Climate change mitigation with local communities and indigenous peoples: practices, lessons learned and prospects", held in Cairns, Australia, in March. Other achievements included publishing, jointly with UNESCO, the book *Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation*.

88. "Water-Related Information System for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta" is an initiative carried out by 18 research institutions from Germany and Viet Nam, and coordinated by the German Aerospace Centre and the Southern Institute of Water Resources Research of Viet Nam. Specific objectives of the UNU-EHS contribution are to gain an understanding of how water-related vulnerabilities emerge and progress, and assess alterations in vulnerabilities among different socioeconomic population groups; to assess the risk originating from the use of contaminated surface water and groundwater for drinking and irrigation purposes; to assess the impacts of different agricultural practices; and to coordinate the doctoral programme related to the initiative. Empirical work for the risk assessment of surface water and groundwater quality was finalized in October.

89. The "West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use" research project seeks to develop effective climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. UNU-EHS is responsible for a research package on risk assessment and the development of a Master of Science programme at the University of Lomé. The main phase of the project started in October and will last until 2016.

**Teaching and capacity development**

90. The UNU-ISP project entitled "Comparative Studies on Development Strategies considering Impacts of Adaptation to Climate Change", with a focus on rice production and the mitigation of natural disasters, was completed in March. The project, which included case studies in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam and joint programmes with national institutions, provided training and technology transfer for the development of research capacity at the local level in each country. A final report was published in May.

91. UNU-EHS, in collaboration with partner organizations, held a two-week Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa doctoral block course entitled "Vulnerability and disaster risk reduction" in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in January and February. In April, UNU-EHS held a two-week doctoral block course entitled "From vulnerability to resilience in disaster risk management" at the University of Bonn.

92. The Global e-Sustainability Initiative and Solving the e-Waste Problem e-waste academy, carried out by the UNU-ISP operating unit SCYCLE, is a forum enabling stakeholders involved in e-waste system design to share knowledge, interact with other experts and develop collaborative partnerships fostering long-term, sustainable solutions and approaches on all policy-related areas related to e-waste. The curriculum of the week-long e-Waste Academy 2012, held at UNU-INRA in Accra in June, focused on global collaboration to enhance local solutions along the e-waste recycling chain.

93. In cooperation with the Fisheries Education and Training Agency and the Department of Fisheries of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Marine Research Institute of Iceland, the UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP) conducted a week-long course on fisheries data collection and analysis for fisheries officers and managers in the United Republic of Tanzania in August.

94. In March 2012, 19 fellows successfully completed the fourteenth session of the UNU-FTP six-month Fisheries Training Programme. In September, 22 fisheries professionals from 13 countries started the fifteenth session.

95. The topic of the week-long UNU-EHS Summer Academy 2012, held in Hohenkammer, Germany, in July, was "From social vulnerability to resilience: measuring progress towards disaster risk reduction". The course was co-organized by the Munich Re Foundation. A three-day international conference entitled "From Social Vulnerability to Building Resilience in the Context of Climate Adaptation" was held in Bonn, Germany, in October.

96. Small and medium-sized agrifood-processing companies in Ghana, which play key roles in providing rural employment, promoting the addition of economic value, improving food supply and reducing rural poverty, face such challenges as lack of credit and financing opportunities as well as intense competition from cheap food

imports. One component of the UNU-INRA project entitled "Improving Productivity and Domestic Investments for Small and Medium Food Crop Processing Enterprises in Ghana" is on-the-job research capacity-building. The project is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (through UNU-ISP).

97. The annual six-month (March/April through September/October) Iceland-based UNU Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT) is divided into several modules, focusing on land degradation and desertification, land restoration and sustainable land management. Ten fellows from five countries completed the training in October.

98. The 12th annual training course on mangrove ecosystems and biodiversity was held in November and December at Annamalai University in Parangipettai, India. UNU-INWEH supports this annual two-week training course in collaboration with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and the University.

99. The UNU-IAS Master of Science in Environmental Governance with Specialization in Biodiversity degree programme commenced in September 2011, with 12 students. In September 2012, the second cohort of nine students began the programme.

100. The UNU-ISP Master of Science in Sustainability, Development and Peace degree programme was established in September 2010. In July, three students completed a two-year course of study and became the programme's first graduates. In September, 16 new students entered the programme.

101. The UNU-ISP Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainability Science degree programme, launched in September, seeks to achieve and promote a better understanding of three pressing, cross-cutting issues: global change, peace and security, and development. In September, three students entered the programme.

102. Postgraduate and credited courses on building resilience to climate change were developed under the framework of the University Network for Climate and Ecosystems Change Adaptation Research (UN-CECAR). A five-week session, conducted by UNU-ISP at UNU headquarters in February and March, consisted of two courses: (a) "Science, impacts and vulnerability" and (b) "Approaches to adaptation".

103. UNU-FTP, in partnership with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the University of Belize, held a week-long regional training course on project cycle management in Caribbean fisheries in Saint Lucia in June.

104. Two week-long courses on quality assurance in the handling and processing of fish, developed by UNU-FTP in cooperation with the Fisheries Education and Training Agency and the Department of Fisheries of the United Republic of Tanzania and Matis Limited of Iceland, were held in the United Republic of Tanzania in June. The courses targeted governmental fisheries officers and fish inspectors.

105. In 2012, as part of a multi-partner project on the safe use of wastewater in agriculture, the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development held regional workshops in Francophone Africa (February), Western Asia (May), southern/Anglophone Africa (September) and Latin America (December).

106. UN-CECAR seeks to enhance education and research on adaptation to climate change and changes in ecosystems, and to build the emerging discipline of

sustainability science. The Network is a collaborative platform comprising leading universities in Asia. UNU-ISP, which acts as the secretariat for UN-CECAR, hosted a four-week session of postgraduate courses on building resilience to climate change at UNU headquarters in February and March. Other events in 2012 included a conference and a meeting in Thailand in May, a curriculum development working group meeting in Indonesia in August, and a training session in Thailand in November.

107. The UNU-EHS International Internship Programme offers qualified candidates an opportunity to work as interns at UNU-EHS for a period of three to six months.

108. The UNU-INRA Visiting Scholars Programme accepted its second cohort of scholars in 2012 (three starting in August and four in January 2013). The programme provides an opportunity for researchers at African institutions to spend up to four months at UNU-INRA.

109. The six-week UNU intensive core courses are part of the UNU-ISP Master of Science in Sustainability, Development and Peace degree programme. Among the UNU intensive core courses offered during the 2012 session, held at UNU headquarters in Tokyo in September and October, was a course on global change and sustainability.

110. Water without Borders is a joint graduate programme of UNU-INWEH and McMaster University that focuses on the need to investigate key research issues at the water-health nexus while contributing to both policy and capacity-building.

**Sharing and transfer of knowledge**

111. A one-day symposium, held in January, presented findings from the three-year UNU-IAS project entitled "Ecosystem Services Assessment of Satoyama, Satochi and Satoumi to Identify a New Commons for a Nature-Harmonious Society". The project, supported by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, assessed the ecosystem services derived from socioecological production landscapes in Japan and proposed methods for managing biodiversity and ecosystem services as a "new commons" to provide policy options for realizing a nature-harmonious society.

112. A two-day public symposium entitled "The great East Japan tsunami and tsunami warning systems: policy perspectives", co-organized by UNU-ISP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, was held at UNU headquarters in February. Participants discussed event facts and analyses, tsunami warning systems, tsunami preparedness and event experiences, lessons learned and policy implications.

113. UNU-LRT, in cooperation with the Agricultural University of Iceland and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, held a one-day open seminar on land health in June to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

114. UNU-INRA and the African Development Bank co-organized a seminar entitled "National and transboundary water resources management in Africa", in Accra in March.

115. In April, UNU-INWEH held a launch and signing event for the book *Our Dying Planet* by University of California Press. The book, by coral reef ecologist and UNU-INWEH Assistant Director Peter Sale, reviews the range of human impacts on reefs, the consequences and likely trends. And in July, UNU-INWEH

produced a brochure entitled "Reef Reminiscences" — timed for the twelfth International Coral Reef Symposium, held in Australia — containing a series of reminiscences by high-profile coral reef scientists.

116. The secretariat of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, hosted by UNU, co-organized the four-day conference entitled "Planet under Pressure", held in London in March.

117. In October, UNU-INWEH launched a policy brief entitled "Securing the Future of Mangroves", based largely on the *Revised World Atlas of Mangroves* (published in 2010 by Earthscan), which was the output of a joint project that had included participation by the Institute.

118. In June, UNU-IAS held a one-day seminar entitled "Towards Rio+20 and beyond: challenges and opportunities for greening the economy and improving governance for sustainable development". It served as a venue in which to launch the book *Green Economy and Good Governance for Sustainable Development: Opportunities, Promises and Concerns*, published by UNU Press.

119. United Nations Day (24 October) is commemorated annually at UNU headquarters in Tokyo with a public forum. The topic of the 2012 UN Day Public Forum, co-organized by the UNU Centre, the Global Environmental Outreach Centre, the United Nations Information Centre and the Environmental Partnership Council, was "Post 'Rio+20': achieving the future we want". The keynote speaker was Janos Pasztor, Executive Secretary of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability.

120. Each year, a guest lecturer is invited to Iceland to give a series of lectures to UNU-FTP fellows and the general public. The 2012 UNU-FTP visiting lecturer, Kai Lorenzen of the University of Florida, presented a series of lectures on culture-based fisheries.

121. The UNU global seminars, designed to increase understanding among college students and young professionals about global issues facing humankind today, are held annually at locations throughout Japan. The UNU Global Seminar-Tohoku Session, held in February, focused on "After the earthquake: rebuilding ecosystem adaptability"; the UNU Global Seminar-Shonan Session, held in September, looked at "Responses of global society to humanitarian emergencies".

122. From September to December, the UNU-INRA seminar series held 10 public seminars in Accra, focusing on a variety of topics relating to natural resources.

123. In Iceland in mid-June, the 2012 UNU-LRT Visiting Lecturer, Jeffrey Herrick, presented a series of lectures and offered practical training on rangeland health assessment.

124. The annual *WorldRiskReport*, produced by UNU-EHS and Alliance Development Works, includes a disaster risk index, a priority topic and case studies. The main focus of the report is the threat from, or exposure to, natural hazards and the rise in sea level caused by climate change, as well as social vulnerability. *WorldRiskReport 2012* was published in October, with contributions from the Nature Conservancy.

## E. Thematic cluster 5: Science, technology and society

125. In today's globalized, fast-paced world, the creation and utilization of innovation systems are essential to facilitate scientific research and technological advancement. The work of UNU in this thematic cluster focuses on fundamental questions such as how to mitigate the negative societal/ethical impacts of innovation and how to ensure that the benefits of innovation are shared by all.

**Research and study**

126. The UNU-WIDER project entitled "Decentralization and Urban Service Delivery: Implications for Foreign Aid" addressed the intersection among politics, public administration, service delivery and development economics to highlight options for providing foreign aid to address the challenges of urbanization in Africa. Research covered two cities in each of four African countries. In September, project collaborators presented their findings at the World Urban Forum, held in Naples, Italy.

127. The project entitled "INNO Metrics: Innovation Union Scoreboard", coordinated by UNU-MERIT, consists of an annual study that benchmarks innovation performance in Europe. Innovation Union Scoreboards are released in February or March of each year in a ceremony coordinated and presented by the European Commissioners for Research, Industry and Entrepreneurship.

128. The UNU-IIST project entitled "Intelligent Governance of Smart Cities: Foundations" is aimed at providing fundamental insights into how to develop, implement and institutionalize "smart" city initiatives. Particular focus is placed on how technology-supported smart city governance can facilitate sustainable urban development and contribute to the definition of smart city models for Macao, China. The "Foundations" project was completed in April, and project outputs were delivered to the government of Macao, China. A follow-up project entitled "Intelligent Governance of Smart Cities: Applications" was launched in July.

129. "Knowledge Integration and Management — United Nations University" (KIM-UNU) is a technology platform for assimilating, extracting and transforming knowledge from disparate sources into a single, consistent and accurate model. The platform was developed by UNU-INWEH in partnership with the Centre for Community Mapping as a knowledge management system and e-learning centre.

130. UNU-INWEH, in partnership with several Canadian and international organizations, hosted the KStar (knowledge management and mobilization) Conference in April. Participants discussed similarities and differences in the context of improving the use of knowledge in policy, industry and practice.

131. The UNU-IAS Science and Technology for Sustainable Societies programme is aimed at guiding technological development and innovation in order to create a greener, cleaner and creative economy in both rural and urban areas. The programme is addressing a number of pressing issues in the areas of governance and biosecurity in East Africa through the Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System initiative, which has brought together four African countries to use a common information-sharing platform to address crimes against wildlife. A substantial programme output in 2012 was the book *Free and Open Source Software Technology for Sustainable Development*, published by UNU Press.

132. The collaborative project entitled "Science, Innovation, Firms and Markets in a Globalized World" brings together research teams from 11 European organizations, including UNU-MERIT, to explore how policy influences the innovation process, and the spillovers between universities and private firms.

133. The UNU-IAS Sustainable Urban Futures programme is aimed at gaining an understanding of potential social and institutional barriers and technical issues regarding the densification and growth of urban centres, and at developing locally applicable tools and solutions. In 2012, the programme continued research on urban development with co-benefits in a five-country study supported by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. The programme has developed a practical tool for assessing co-benefits in the transportation sector. It completed an urban assessment project in Okinawa, with support from Nansei Sekiyu, and started new projects in Yokohama (on urban biodiversity) and Toyama (to test the co-benefits tool). The policy report *Governance Challenges for Greening the Urban Economy: Understanding and Assessing the Links between Governance and Green Economy in Cities* was launched at the third International Urban Research Symposium, held in Brazil in June.

**Teaching and capacity development**

134. The UNU Programme for Biotechonology in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC) awarded eight biotechnology fellowships in 2012, for periods ranging from two weeks to four months, for training on biotechnology-related topics at Latin American institutions.

135. In 2012, UNU-BIOLAC conducted two biotechnology training courses in collaboration with the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research of Costa Rica; five courses in collaboration with the Department of Innovation, Science and Technology for Development of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay; and two courses in cooperation with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, in Chile. UNU-BIOLAC also organized international courses in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

136. "Design and evaluation of innovation policy in developing countries" is a series of one-week training programmes carried out by UNU-MERIT in Maastricht and, upon request, in developing countries. In 2012, UNU-MERIT organized courses in Malaysia and Thailand.

137. The UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP) offers capacity-building through customer-designed short courses on geothermal topics. In 2012, these included a two-month training course in borehole geology; an advanced training course on geothermal geochemistry; and a 13-week course on geothermal technology and an advanced training course on borehole geology, both for the Kenya Electricity Generating Company.

138. As part of its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the Government of Iceland provides core funding enabling UNU-GTP to organize "millennium" short courses and workshops on geothermal topics in Africa, Central America and Asia. In 2012, these included a course on geothermal resources exploration in Kenya and a course on geothermal development and geothermal wells in El Salvador.

139. The annual six-month UNU Geothermal Training Programme, which runs from April to October, includes introductory lectures, specialized training and a research project. In October, 33 fellows from 17 countries completed the 2012 course.

140. UNU-IAS doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships provide a multidisciplinary context for young scholars and policymakers, especially those from the developing world, to pursue advanced research and training.

**Sharing and transfer of knowledge**

141. UNU, represented by UNU-ViE, is a member of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, together with the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council, the Belmont Forum, UNESCO, UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization. UNU-ViE co-chairs the implementation board for the Alliance's 10-year research initiative on environmental research for global sustainability.

142. The Global Research Benchmarking System, supported by UNU-IIST, provides objective data and analyses to help universities to benchmark their research activities from both traditional disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, for the purpose of strengthening the quality and impact of research. The first results, covering 729 universities in the Asia-Pacific region and North America, were released in November 2011; coverage of 614 universities in Europe was added in May 2012.

143. A public launch event and panel discussion were held for the UNU-WIDER book *Latin American Urban Development into the 21st Century: Towards a Renewed Perspective on the City*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, in October in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

144. In October, UNU-ISP organized a special session on "Sustainable approaches to urban flood risk management under global change" at the eleventh International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Megacities in Asia, held in Ulaanbaatar.

145. The 2012 UNU-GTP visiting lecturer was Cornel Ofwona, reservoir engineer at the Geothermal Development Company of Kenya and former UNU-GTP fellow. In September, he presented a series of lectures on geothermal exploration and development.

# III. Institutional highlights in 2012

146. A major highlight for UNU in 2012 was the launch of two new institutes, one in Germany and one in Spain.

147. The UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES), in Dresden, Germany, became operational in October. UNU-FLORES is jointly funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany and the Free State of Saxony; a twin institute, to be established in Maputo, remains under development.

148. The mission of UNU-FLORES is to contribute to the development of integrated and sustainable management strategies for the use of water, soil and waste resources, in particular in developing and emerging countries, in scientific, educational, managerial, technological and institutional terms.

149. The UNU Institute in Barcelona, Spain (UNU-Barcelona), which became operational in September, seeks to contribute to good governance, cultural diversity, democracy and human rights through a better understanding of cultural mobility and diversity in the context of globalization.

150. UNU-Barcelona is funded by the Government of Spain and supported by the Generalitat of Catalonia. Because of the recent economic crisis in Spain, however, core funding was frozen for the biennium 2012-2013, forcing the Institute to scale back its initial efforts. The planned name for the Institute (formerly the UNU International Institute for the Alliance of Civilizations) has been revised; a new name and acronym will be approved by the UNU Council in April 2013.

151. Other institutional highlights in 2012 included the following:

(a) The UNU Conference of Directors convened its forty-third session in Paris on 7 May and its forty-fourth session in Dresden, Germany, from 10 to 12 December;

(b) The UNU Academic Committee held its fourth session in Paris on 8 May and its fifth session in Dresden, Germany, on 11 December;

(c) The Bureau of the UNU Council (the Executive Committee of the Council) held its annual midyear session in Paris on 28 and 29 June;

(d) In July, the first three students graduated from the UNU-ISP Master of Science in Sustainability, Development, and Peace degree programme.

(e) In 2012, two UNU doctoral degree programmes were launched: a Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainability Science (by UNU-ISP) and a double-degree Doctor of Philosophy in Information and Communication Technology for Sustainable Development (by UNU-IIST, in cooperation with the University of Pisa);

(f) A 26-member UNU delegation, headed by Rector Osterwalder, attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

(g) A 10-member delegation from UNU-EHS, UNU-ViE and UNU-IAS attended the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held from 26 November to 8 December).

152. In October, it was announced that, following consultations with the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had appointed David M. Malone of Canada as the sixth Rector of UNU, effective 1 March 2013. Mr. Malone would replace Konrad Osterwalder, who has served as Rector for five and a half years, since 1 September 2007.

153. Because of the impending change in the UNU rectorship, the fifty-ninth session of the UNU Council, planned for early December in Tokyo, was rescheduled for April 2013.

## IV. Institutional priorities in 2012

154. The work of UNU encompasses global or regional issues relevant to the United Nations and its Member States. As a research institution and think tank, the University takes an interdisciplinary, systems-oriented approach that bridges the natural/

physical sciences and the social sciences/humanities, with the aim of delivering relevant, practical, science-based information in a timely manner and a useful form.

155. In 2012, UNU continued to pursue five strategic priority initiatives, set out in its strategic plan for the period 2011-2014 as well as an additional priority articulated by the Rector at the 2011 midyear meeting of the Bureau.

**United Nations University postgraduate programmes initiative**

156. An important challenge for higher education is to assimilate knowledge from diverse disciplines into an integrated, comprehensive approach, so as to ensure that an "answer" developed by one discipline does not become a new "problem" when viewed from the perspective of a different discipline. UNU is uniquely positioned to confront this challenge.

157. In the three years since the General Assembly amended the Charter of UNU, thereby authorizing the University to "grant and confer master's degrees and doctorates", the University has launched the following postgraduate degree programmes:

(a) Master of Science in Sustainability, Development and Peace (UNU-ISP);

(b) Master of Science in Environmental Governance with Specialization in Biodiversity (UNU-IAS);

(c) Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainability Science (UNU-ISP);

(d) Doctor of Philosophy in Information and Communication Technology for Sustainable Development (a double degree) (UNU-IIST and the University of Pisa).

158. Additional UNU postgraduate degree programmes are planned. The University also continues to award a diploma or certificate of completion for graduates of some degree programmes of other universities in which a UNU institute plays a teaching or supervision role.

**Twin institutes initiative**

159. As a strategic step towards strengthening its presence in the developing world and intensifying research and teaching interaction, UNU has been working to develop a "twinning" structure for its institutes. Under this concept, each institute will have two separate locations — one in a developed country and the other in a developing country — each with its own researchers, teachers and students, jointly implementing a shared research and teaching agenda.

160. The twinning process has moved forward more slowly than initially anticipated, in part because of constraints imposed by the global economic situation and the political situation in some regions. To date, UNU-MERIT, UNU-ISP, UNU-INRA and UNU-FLORES have undertaken preliminary twinning relationships. Other twinning opportunities are being explored.

**Quality assurance initiative**

161. UNU is committed to providing a nurturing environment that will motivate academic and administrative personnel to excel. The University has prepared a Quality Assurance Handbook that presents tools and methods for enhancing the quality of its academic activities through proper assessment and evaluation.

### Communications initiative

162. Enhancement of the internal and external communications of UNU remains a major priority. In September, concurrent with the establishment of a New York-based Head of Communications post, the UNU Media Centre, at the UNU Centre in Tokyo, and the former UNU Office at the United Nations, in New York, were integrated to re-establish the University's Office of Communications. Office of Communications teams in Tokyo and New York are working in collaboration with communications focal points at the University's institutes.

### Fundraising initiative

163. The UNU Development Office, in New York, is responsible for the University's global development strategy and outreach as well as for maintaining liaison with UNU stakeholders and the public. The Development Office oversees the University's fundraising and development strategy, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships.

### Coherence initiative

164. Enhancing the assimilation of the global UNU system by transforming it from a loose confederation of institutes into a more coherent federal institution is an ongoing priority. This includes not only implementing decisions on academic/substantive matters with the individual institutes, but also promoting increased inter-institute collaboration in teaching and research and integrating non-substantive matters for greater efficiency.

## V. An overview of the United Nations University system

165. The global UNU system encompasses 14 research and training institutes and programmes located in 12 countries around the world, coordinated by the UNU Centre. The Rector serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the University, while the UNU Council acts as the governing board.

### Academic units

166. The academic work of UNU is carried out by a worldwide system of research and training institutes and programmes, as set out below.

*Institutes*

- UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS; Bruges, Belgium)
- UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS; Bonn, Germany)
- UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES; Dresden, Germany)
- UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS; Yokohama, Japan)
- UNU Institute in Barcelona (UNU-Barcelona; Spain)
- UNU International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH; Kuala Lumpur)

- UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST; Macao, China)
- UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA; Accra)
- UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH; Hamilton, Canada)
- UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP; Tokyo)
- UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT; Maastricht, Netherlands)
- UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER; Helsinki)

*Programmes*

- UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC; Caracas)
- UNU Iceland Programme: UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP), UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP), UNU Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT) (Reykjavik)

**United Nations University Centre**

- UNU Centre-Tokyo
- UNU Centre-Kuala Lumpur
- UNU Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE; Bonn, Germany)
- UNU Development Office (New York)
- UNU Office of Communications (New York and Tokyo)
- UNU Office at UNESCO (Paris)

**Council of the United Nations University**

167. The Council of UNU is the governing board of the University; it formulates the principles and policies that govern the University's activities and operations, approves the work programme and adopts the biennial budget. The Council is composed of 24 appointed members (who serve six-year terms), the University's Rector and three ex officio members (the Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research).

**Associated institutions**

168. In many of its activities, UNU is assisted by a network of designated UNU associated institutions. Typically, these are organizations implementing large, multi-year joint programmes with the University. Currently, 20 institutions are designated by the UNU Council as UNU associated institutions.

# Annex

## Members of the Council of the United Nations University, 2012

**Appointed members**

- Mohamed H. A. Hassan (Sudan) (Chair), former Executive Director, Academy of Sciences for the Developing World
- Nobuyasu Abe (Japan), Director, Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Japan Institute of International Affairs; former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs
- Paolo Blasi (Italy), Professor Emeritus of Physics, University of Florence; former Rector, University of Florence
- Jean-Pierre Bourguignon (France), Director, Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies; Research Director, National Centre of Scientific Research
- Rahma Bourqia (Morocco), Professor of Sociology, Mohamed V University, Agdal; former President, Hassan II University Mohammedia, Casablanca
- Cristovam Buarque (Brazil), Member, Federal Senate; Professor, University of Brasilia
- Fiona Caldicott (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Immediate Past Principal, Somerville College, University of Oxford; Immediate Past Pro Vice-Chancellor, Personnel and Equal Opportunities, University of Oxford; Chair, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
- Juan Ramón de la Fuente (Mexico), Immediate Past President, International Association of Universities; former Rector, National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Gajaraj Dhanarajan (Malaysia), Chair, Board of Governors, Wawasan Open University
- Louise Fresco (Netherlands), Professor of Foundations of Sustainable Development in International Perspective, University of Amsterdam
- Zellynne Doloris Jennings-Craig (Jamaica), Director, School of Education/ Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education, University of the West Indies
- Jin Xiaoming (China), Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology
- Konstantin Khudoley (Russian Federation), Vice-Rector and Vice-President of the University Council, Saint Petersburg State University; Chief, European Studies Department, School of International Relations, Saint Petersburg State University
- Fadia Kiwan (Lebanon), Professor of Political Science and Director, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Saint Joseph University, Beirut
- Lily Kong (Singapore), Vice-President for University and Global Relations and Vice-Provost for Academic Personnel, National University of Singapore

- Goolam Mohamedbhai (Mauritius), former Secretary-General, Association of African Universities; former President, International Association of Universities
- Francisco Komlavi Seddoh (Togo), former Rector, University of Lomé; former Minister of Education and Scientific Research; former Director, Division of Higher Education, UNESCO
- Gita Sen (India), Professor, Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; Adjunct Professor, Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University
- Lydia Shouleva (Bulgaria), Managing Partner of Business Intellect; former member of the European and Bulgarian parliaments; former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Policy
- Mala Singh (South Africa), Professor of International Higher Education Research, Centre for Public Leadership and Social Enterprise, The Open University, United Kingdom
- Ivan Wilhelm (Czech Republic), Deputy for Research and Higher Education of the Minister for Education; former Rector, Charles University, Prague
- Margret Wintermantel (Germany), President, German Academic Exchange Service
- J. Michael Adams (United States of America), President, Fairleigh Dickinson University (deceased — June 2012)
- Angela Cropper (Trinidad and Tobago), Special Adviser, United Nations Environment Programme (deceased — November 2012)

**Rector of the United Nations University**

- Konrad Osterwalder (Switzerland)

**Ex officio members**

- Ban Ki-moon (Republic of Korea), Secretary-General, United Nations, New York
- Irina Gueorguieva Bokova (Bulgaria), Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris
- Sally Fegan-Wyles (Ireland), Executive Director ad interim, United Nations Institute for Training and Research